



【0008】この他、従来の表示装置において観察視野を広くするためにはホログラムコンバイナを大きくしなければならず、それに伴いホログラムコンバイナから発生する収差が増大するという問題点があった。

【0009】これに対してホログラムコンバイナの増大を防止する観察視野の拡大を図ったヘッパツアレイスアレイ装置（表示装置）が例えば米国特許第3807829号や米国特許第3915648号等で提案されている。

【0010】ここではコンバイナとして同一寸法の複数の要素ホログラムより成るホログラムアレイをoffset-axis（軸外し）配置して用いている。  
【0011】しかしながらこの表示装置では観察者の眼に入射する各光束間でN、A（開口数）が異なつてきて明るさが不均一となるという問題点があった。

【0012】即ち、軸上光束のホログラムへの入射角を $\theta_{in}$ 、軸外光束の面角をw、観察者の眼往をaとすると入射光束のホログラム面上での寸法Hは、 $H=a/\cos(\theta_{in}+w)$ と表される。

【0013】このうち、+方向の軸外光束が入射するホログラム寸法は面角の増大と共に大きくなつてくる。この結果、一般のヘッパツアレイスアレイ装置やヘルムツトワットアレイスアレイ装置（HMD装置）にこのような分離したホログラムレンズアレイ（コンバイナ）を用いるとCRT等の画像表示器上の各点から発する光束の立体角が異なつてくる為に入射コンバイナ（ホログラムレンズアレイの別称）を介して重畳された画像は各要素ホログラムの寸法に対応して明るさが不均一となると問題点があった。

【0014】この他、従来のHMD装置ではフリスミスズを補正してホログラムコンバイナの軸上コマ収差を補正している。しかしながらホログラムコンバイナからはコマ収差のほかに非点収差も多く発生してくる。

【0015】例えば観察者の眼位置（人眼側）近傍にホログラム装置の発散光源点を置き、射出側近傍に収束するあと1つの収束光源点を干渉させたホログラムコンバイナでは結像面上で軸上の非点収差は約13mm、面角±20°では約6〜15mm程度ある。この為、画像像情報を良好に観察するのが大変難しいという問題点があった。

【0016】本発明はホログラムレンズアレイの構成を適切に設定することにより、画像表示器からの画像情報と他の画像情報とを空間的に重畳させて広い観察視野で均一の明るさで観察することができoffset-axis型のホログラムレンズ及びそれを用いた表示装置の提供を目的とする。

【0017】この他本発明はホログラムコンバイナを介して画像表示器からの画像情報と他の画像情報とを空間的に重畳して同一視野で観察する際、画像表示器とホロ

グラムコンバイナとの間の光路中にプリズムを設けることにより、コマ収差や非点収差を良好に補正し、良好な画像情報と観察可能なホログラムレンズ及びそれを用いた表示装置の提供を目的とする。

【0018】

【課題を解決するための手段】本発明のホログラムレンズはoffset-axis型のホログラムレンズにおいて、該ホログラムレンズが複数の要素ホログラムに分割されており、かつ、各要素ホログラムのN、Aが等しくなるように各要素ホログラムサイズが分割されていることを特徴としている。

【0019】特に前記ホログラムレンズが体積位相型ホログラムであることを特徴としている。

【0020】本発明のホログラムレンズを用いた表示装置としては、

（1-1）画像表示器からの画像情報に基づく光束をN、Aが等しい複数の要素ホログラムから成るoffset-axis型のホログラムレンズを介し、所定方向に回折させて、該画像情報と該ホログラムレンズの背後の画像情報とを空間的に重畳させて同一視野で観察する際、該画像表示器と該ホログラムレンズとの間の光路中にプリズムを設けたことを特徴としている。

【0021】（1-2）画像表示器からの画像情報に基づく光束をホログラムレンズを介して回折させて、該画像情報と該ホログラムレンズの背後の画像情報とを空間的に重畳させて同一視野で観察する際、該画像表示器と該ホログラムレンズとの間の光路中にプリズムを設けたことを特徴としている。

【0022】特に前記画像表示器と前記ホログラムレンズとの間の光路中にプリズムを設けたこと、前記画像表示器と前記プリズムとの間の光路中にプリズムを設けたこと、前記プリズムは前記ホログラムから生じる非点収差を補正するように配置していること、前記ホログラムレンズはコマ収差を補正する波面を用いて作製されていること、前記プリズムは前記ホログラムレンズのコマ収差を補正していること、そして前記プリズムは偏心レンズを有していること等を特徴としている。

【0023】この他本発明のホログラムレンズは画像表示器からの画像情報に基づく光束を所定方向に回折させて、該画像情報と他の画像情報とを空間的に重畳させて同一視野で観察する為のホログラムレンズであつて、該ホログラムレンズはN、Aが等しい複数の要素ホログラムを有するoffset-axis型より成つていことを特徴としている。

【0024】

【実施例】図1は本発明のホログラムレンズの実施例1の要部概略図である。

【0025】同図において3はoffset-axis型のホログラムレンズである。本実施例ではホログラムレンズは3つの要素ホログラム3.1, 3.2, 3.3を有するホ

ログラムレンズアレイより成る場合を示している。2は基板であり、その面上にホログラムレンズ3を形成している。1は板面であり、表示装置に適用したときの観察者の眼に相当している。5は像面であり、表示装置に適用したときの画像表示器の位置に相当している。107は自然風景等の他の画像情報であり、像面5に画像情報を配置したときホログラムレンズ3を介して双方の画像情報を空間的に重畳して同一視野で観察している。

【0026】次にホログラムレンズアレイ3を垂直方向に3つの要素ホログラムより構成した場合の光学特性について説明する。

【0027】まず軸上光束についての説明を行う。同図では光源は板面1から基板2上のホログラムレンズアレイ3へ入射角 $\theta$ 、で入射する。このうち要素ホログラム3.1は軸上光束を角度 $\theta$ 、で光束4として反射回折する。このとき要素ホログラム3.1は入射角 $\theta$ 、で入射してきた光束に対してのみグレース条件を満足するように構成されており、収束性の光束4へと波面変換して像面5上の結像点F1に集光している。

【0028】板面1からの光束は同じ入射角 $\theta$ 、でホログラムレンズアレイ3のうちの他の要素ホログラム3.2, 3.3へも入射する。しかしながらこれらの要素ホログラム3.2, 3.3は入射角 $\theta$ 、ではグレース条件を満足せず所定の回折効率を有していない。本実施例ではこのようにして軸上光束のみが要素ホログラム3.1で回折し結像点F1に集光するようにしている。

【0029】一方、面角wでホログラムレンズアレイ3に入射する光束に対しては、要素ホログラム3.2でのみグレース条件を満足し、結像点F2へ集光するようにしている。同様に、面角wで入射する光束に対しては結像点F3へ集光するようにしている。

【0030】本実施例ではホログラムレンズアレイ3によって結像させる光束の中心波長を530nmとし、ホログラムレンズアレイ3の中心C1へ入射する入射角 $\theta_1=60^\circ$ 、回折角を $\theta_1=20^\circ$ とし、該要素ホログラム3.1の焦点距離を $f_{11}=50\text{mm}$ としている。該要素ホログラム3.1の中心C1での格子定数は面外格子ピッチ $P_{11}=1.011\mu\text{m}$ である。

【0031】更に、該要素ホログラム3.1がグレース条件を満足する光路上の光束径を $\phi 10\text{mm}$ としている。該要素ホログラム3.1の最も下の地の点C2では、面内格子ピッチ $P_{11}=1.446\mu\text{m}$ であり、回折角は $29.98^\circ$ である。又、最も上の地の点C3では、面内格子ピッチ $P_{11}=0.7396\mu\text{m}$ であり、回折角は $8.59^\circ$ に設定している。該要素ホログラム3.1の開口数(N、A)はN、A=0.36となる様に分割し、その寸法は20mmに設定している。

【0032】次に、結像面5上の結像点F3へ集光する要素ホログラム3.2について説明を行う。説明を簡単に

する為、該要素ホログラム3.2は面角 $\theta+w=10^\circ$ に分割するものとして説明を行う。尚、この面角wはoffset-axis型のホログラムレンズアレイ3の仕様によって、適宜変更して設計されている。

【0033】本実施例においては、該要素ホログラム3.2の焦点距離を $f_{11}=4.5\text{mm}$ とし、N、A=0.36と設定している。このとき、要素ホログラム3.1の最も上の地の点C3は、該要素ホログラム3.2の最も上の地の点C3は、この点C3での面内格子ピッチは $P_{11}=0.7396\mu\text{m}$ であるから、この点C3へ面角 $\theta+w=10^\circ$ 、つまり入射角 $70^\circ$ で入射する光束は回折角 $12.89^\circ$ で回折される。

【0034】従つて、該要素ホログラム3.2のN、Aは0.36に設定されているので、該要素ホログラム3.2の最も上の地C4では、面内格子ピッチ $P_{11}=0.4874\mu\text{m}$ 、回折角 $\theta=8.49^\circ$ （-符号は面法線から入射光線が存在する領域に回折光が含まれていることを示す。）となっている。

【0035】そこで本実施例では該要素ホログラム3.2の寸法を約17mmに分割している。同様にして、面角 $\theta+w=10^\circ$ で用いられる要素ホログラム3.3は、焦点距離 $f_{11}=60\text{mm}$ に設定されており、N、A=0.36で約30mmの寸法に分割している。

【0036】以上、本発明のホログラムレンズアレイの垂直方向の分割方法について説明を行ったが、本実施例では水平方向についても、同様にN、Aを一定にする様に分割している。

【0037】図2は図1のホログラムレンズ3を光束結合素子としてヘルムツトワットアレイスアレイ装置（HMD装置）に適用したときの実施例1の要部概略図である。図2において図1で示した要素は同一要素には同符号を付している。

【0038】本実施例ではハログラム等の光源8から発せられた光束は適宜な形状を有するランパハス7で平行光とし、画像表示器の画像情報としての液晶表示素子6を照明している。液晶表示素子6の表示面5上の点F1の画像情報から発せられる光束4は、ガラスやプラスチック等の透明基板2上に形成されたホログラムレンズアレイ3へ入射する。

【0039】該ホログラムレンズアレイ3は光束4に対してのみグレース条件を満足する要素ホログラム3.1を有しており、光束4は該要素ホログラム3.1でのみ反射回折され観察者の眼1へ入射する。このとき、要素ホログラム3.1は光束4をわずかな発散光束へ変換するレンズ作用を有している。観察者は表示面5の点F1の画像情報をホログラムレンズアレイ3の前方の点F1aから発散してきた光束4aに基づく像として観察している。

【0040】同様の理由により、液晶表示素子6の表示面5上の点F2、F3の画像情報から発光した光束は、

それぞれ要素ホログラム32, 33によってのみ観察者の瞳1方向へ反射回折される。これにより、点F2, F3の画像情報もホログラムレンズアレイ3の前方の点F2a, F3aから発散してきた光線に基づく虚像として観測している。

【0041】以上の如く、液晶表示素子6の表示面5上の各点は各要素ホログラム31, 32, 33で反射回折され、虚像面9を形成する。

【0042】尚、本発明では白色光源を使用しても、要素ホログラムは波長選択性（回折効率の波長依存性）を有している為に、ブロッグ条件を満たす中心波長 $\lambda_0$ の光束で回折効率のピークを有している。このとき半値全幅を $2\Delta\lambda$ とすると、該要素ホログラムは入射してきた白色光のうち、 $\lambda_0 - \Delta\lambda$ から $\lambda_0 + \Delta\lambda$ の光束に対してのみ反射回折作用を生じる。この為、本実施例では光源としてハロゲンランプを使用している。

【0043】又、当然のことながら、ハロゲンランプからの光束と必要な波長の光束のみを通ずる干渉フィルタを用いても良い。又、本実施例では各要素ホログラム31, 32, 33はそれぞれ良好に収差補正された領域61, 62, 63を有しており、各領域61a, 62a, 63aからなる虚像面9上の点はほとんど無収差に近い状態となつて観測できる。

【0044】以上本実施例では、反射off-axis型のホログラムレンズアレイを用いてヘルムホルツァン型のホログラムレンズアレイを用いても同様に構成することができ、

【0045】更に、本実施例では前記ホログラムレンズアレイ3の側面と液晶表示素子6の表示面5を一致させて構成した場合についての説明したが、リレーレンズを用いて、CRTや液晶表示素子の表示面をリレーレンズの中間結像面へ変換し、該中間結像面が本実施例の表示面5（ホログラムレンズアレイの物面）に一致する様に構成しても良い。

【0046】又、光源の必要な波長光をカットする為のコーティングや赤外カットフィルター等を適宜使用して表示装置を構成しても良い。

【0047】本実施例においては、一つの波長光に対してのみ回折効率を有するホログラムレンズアレイを用いて表示装置を構成したが、回折中心波長が赤、黄、緑である様なホログラムレンズアレイを組み合わせて、同様の表示装置を構成することも可能であり、これによれば多色表示やフルカラー表示も行うことができる。

【0048】図3は本発明のホログラムレンズの実施例2の模式図である。本実施例ではホログラムレンズアレイを5×5の要素ホログラムより構成した場合を示している。【0050】図中（i, j）（i, j=1, 2）で示される要素ホログラムは、光軸となる点C1を含む軸上

10 光を用いた要素ホログラム（0, 0）に対して、それぞれ垂直方向、水平方向の各面角の番号を示している。例えば要素ホログラム（i, j）=（2, 2）では垂直方向に面角 $\theta_v = +20^\circ$ 、水平方向に面角 $\theta_h = +20^\circ$ であり、要素ホログラム（i, j）=（-1, +1）は垂直方向に面角 $-10^\circ$ 、水平方向に面角 $+10^\circ$ の入射光束に対して作用する要素ホログラムを示している。

【0051】前述した様に、垂直方向については面角 $\theta_v$ が+符号で大きいほど、要素ホログラムの分割寸法は小さい。【0052】しかしながら、水平方向については（0, 0）番目の要素ホログラムの点C1を通る線AA'に対して対称となる為、 $\pm\theta_h$ の面角の要素ホログラムの分割寸法は等しくなる。つまり $i=0$ となる各要素ホログラムが最小の分割寸法となる。

【0053】本実施例ではこの様に各要素ホログラムの寸法及び光学作用を特定することにより、各要素ホログラムのN, Aを一定にして均一な明るさの画像情報の観察を可能としている。

【0054】尚、本発明においてホログラムレンズアレイを構成する要素ホログラムの数は要素ホログラム間の境界で面内格子ピッチが等しく、かつ入射角と回折角が格子方程式を満たす様に連続し、更に各要素ホログラムがその要素ホログラムを利用する面角の光束に対してのみブロッグ条件を満たす様に設定すればよい。ついても良い。

【0055】尚、以上の各実施例では反射型のoff-axis型ホログラムレンズアレイについて説明したが、透過型のoff-axis型ホログラムレンズアレイについても同様に適用可能である。

【0056】次に本発明のoff-axis型のホログラムレンズアレイの作成方法について図1の要素ホログラム31を例にとり説明する。尚、他の要素ホログラムについても作成方法は基本的に同じである。

【0057】まず、図1に示すように要素ホログラム31は、該ホログラムの面上の点C1で面内格子ピッチ $p_1 = 1.011\mu\text{m}$ 、格子傾き角 $\phi_1 = 11.04^\circ$ 、格子間隔 $d_1 = 0.1937\mu\text{m}$ となる格子定数を有する。

【0058】点C2では $P_{0,1} = 1.2375\mu\text{m}$ 、 $\phi_{0,1} = 9.15^\circ$ 、 $d_{0,1} = 0.1968\mu\text{m}$ 、点C3では $P_{0,2} = 0.8390\mu\text{m}$ 、 $\phi_{0,2} = 13.14^\circ$ 、 $d_{0,2} = 0.1907\mu\text{m}$ である。

【0059】そこで図4を用いてこれらの格子定数を有する要素ホログラムを記録波長514.5nmのアルゴニオンレーザを用いて回折率1.5の感光材料に記録する方法について説明する。

【0060】図4においてアルゴニオンレーザ11から射出した波長514.5nmのレーザ光は、ハーヰミラー12で2つの光束に分け、各々コリメータレンズ

1 ステム13a, 13bで平行光束にしている。

【0061】このうち一方の平行光束1aは光軸に対して $\theta_1$ を傾けて配置したレンズステム15へ入射し、ミラー16で反射させている。ミラー16からの反射光束19は透明な基板17上に配布または貼付された感光材料18へ入射する。該入射光束19は前記レンズステム15の面角 $\beta_1$ の軸外光束となっており、本発明によるoff-axis型のホログラムレンズのoff-axis配置によって生じる収差や、使用（再生）時の波長（本実施例では530nmである）と記録光波長（514.5nm）との波長差によって生じる収差等を補正する為の逆収差を生起させている。

【0062】他方の平行光束1bはミラー20で反射させ、光軸に対して $\theta_2$ 傾けて配置したレンズステム21で、収差を含む収差光束22として感光材料18へ入射させている。

【0063】これらの各光束19, 22はそれぞれ入射角 $\theta_{0,1}, \theta_{0,2}$ で感光材料18に互いに対向する側から入射させておきさせている。これより反射型のホログラムを記録している。

【0064】尚、本実施例に用いる記録材料18としては、重クロム酸セラチン、フエボリマー、銀塗材等種々のものを使用できるが、図4に示す実施例ではフエボリマーを使用している。

【0065】図5は記録光学系の感光材料18へ入射する2光束19, 22を誇張して示した光線の説明図である。

【0066】図5は本要素ホログラム31の面上の各点C1, C2, C3における記録レーザ光の入射角を示す説明図である。

【0067】図中点C1で $\theta_{0,1}$ （C1）=  $69.88^\circ$ ,  $\theta_{0,1}$ （C1）=  $25.49^\circ$ 、点C2で $\theta_{0,1}$ （C2）=  $70.95^\circ$ ,  $\theta_{0,1}$ （C2）=  $19.39^\circ$ 、点C3で $\theta_{0,1}$ （C3）=  $69.02^\circ$ ,  $\theta_{0,1}$ （C3）=  $31.20^\circ$ であり、点C1から光束19の1次像点P1迄の距離は約600nm、点C1から光束19の結像点P2迄の距離は約88mmになっている。

【0068】前述した様に要素ホログラム31の寸法（点C2から点C3までの長さ）は20mmである。レンズステム21と感光材料18との間の距離を50mmにしたので、レンズステム21のレンズ径は約30mmである。

【0069】本発明では以上説明した方法を用いて、各要素ホログラムをステップ&リフト法の様な手段によって記録することによってホログラムレンズアレイを作製している。このとき他の要素ホログラムを記録する際、該要素ホログラムの中心への光束入射角はミラー1

6, 20を回転させて行っている。又、要素ホログラムの寸法に応じて各入射光束19, 22をマスク（図示）や、液晶等の空間光変調器（不図示）を用いたりすることによって制限している。

【0070】本実施例では回折対称なレンズステムの軸外光束による収差光束を用いて要素ホログラムを記録する方法を用いたが、ソリッドリカルレンズや偏心させたいレンズを含むレンズシステム等の様な記録光学系を用いることも可能である。

【0071】又、収差発生の為のレンズステム15, 21へは平行光束を入射させているが、本実施例のグリマーソングステム13の代わりに凹レンズや凸レンズ、顕微鏡対物レンズ等を用いて発散光にしてレンズステム15, 21を有収差光学系にして構成しても良い。

【0072】以上の様に実施例1ではoff-axis型のホログラムレンズアレイを各要素ホログラムのN, Aが等しくなる様に各要素ホログラムの寸法を設定し、これによりホログラム全面に渡つて明るさが均一な面角のoff-axis型のホログラムレンズアレイを構成している。

【0073】又、該off-axis型のホログラムレンズアレイを用いて、CRTや液晶表示素子からの画像情報を観察者の瞳へ反射回折させ、前記画像情報を観察する際、傾度ムラのない画面の表示装置を構成している。

【0074】図7は本発明のホログラムレンズを用いた表示装置の実施例2の要部構成図である。

【0075】本実施例ではハロゲンランプ等の光源71から発せられた光束は適宜な形状を有するランツハウス72で平行光束になり、画像情報としての液晶表示素子73を照明する。該液晶表示素子73上の各点から発せられる光束はプリズム74で該入射光束に後述するホログラムレンズ76と逆符号の非点収差を与え、ガラスやプラスチック等の透明な基板75上に形成されたホログラムレンズ76へ入射する。

【0076】該ホログラムレンズ76はプリズム74で与えられた非点収差と逆符号の非点収差を生じている。この為、該ホログラムレンズ76に入射した光束はパラックス度（収差補正された両平行な光束となつて観察者の瞳77へ入射する。

【0077】これにより観察者はホログラムレンズ76の前方に液晶表示素子73で形成された画像情報を適度として他の画像情報80と空間的に重畳して同一視野で観察している。

【0078】前記ホログラムレンズ76は入射光束に対して、特定の波長域の光束に対してのみ反射回折光線を有している（ブロッグ回折）。この為、入射光が白色光であっても前記波長域の色光で画像情報の観察ができるようにしている。

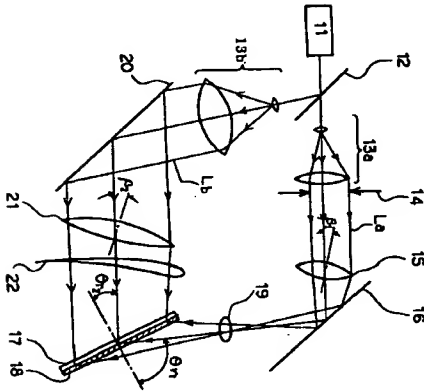
【0079】本実施例では特定の波長域の光束のみを通



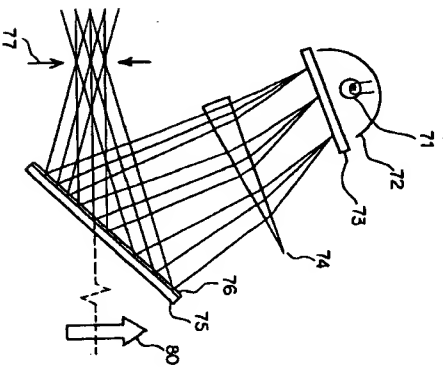
【図3】

(2, -2)	(1, 2)	(0, 2)	(1, -2)	(2, -2)
(2, -1)	(1, 1)	(0, 1)	(1, -1)	(2, -1)
(2, 0)	(1, 0)	(0, 0)	(1, 0)	(2, 0)
(2, -1)	(1, -1)	(0, -1)	(1, -1)	(2, -1)
(2, -2)	(1, -2)	(0, -2)	(1, -2)	(2, -2)

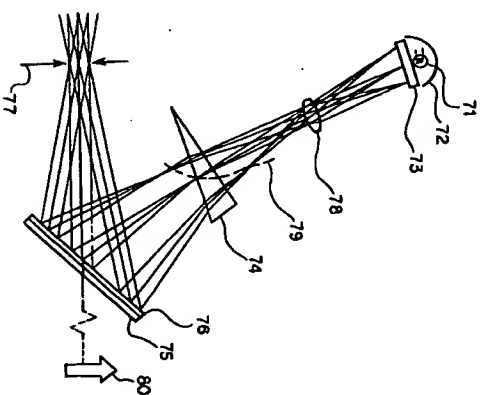
【図4】



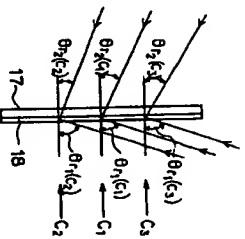
【図7】



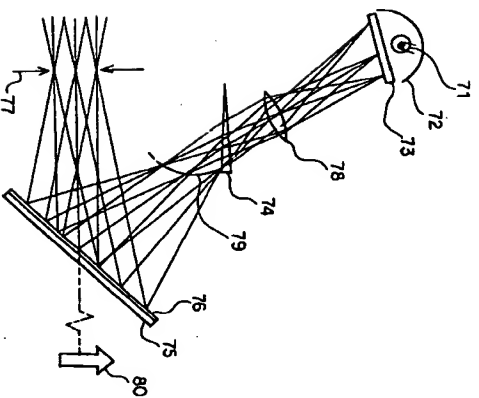
【図8】



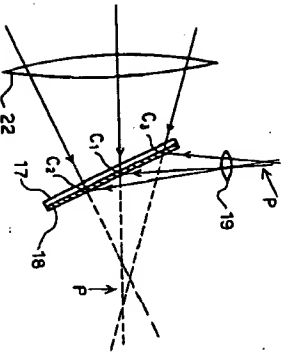
【図6】



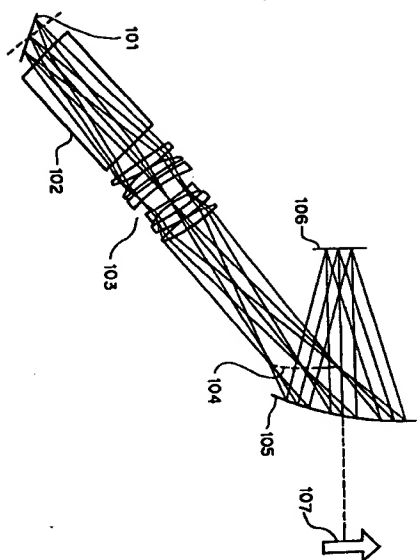
【図9】



【図5】



【図10】



フロントページの続き

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**A Translation of Substantially the Whole of  
Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. H5-346508  
(Laid-Open on December 27, 1993)**

**5 [Title of the Invention]**

Hologram Lens and Display Apparatus Employing the Hologram Lens

**[Abstract]**

**[Object]**

10       To provide an off-axis type hologram lens that achieves a wide observation field of view and that permits observation of an image having an even brightness distribution, and to provide a display apparatus employing the hologram lens.

**[Features]**

15       A hologram lens by which a light beam emitted from an image display device in accordance with image information thereof is diffracted into a predetermined direction so that the image information and other image information are observed in the same field of view while being spatially superimposed on each other. The hologram lens is off-axis type and composed of a plurality of elemental holograms having the same NA.

**20 [Claims]**

**[Claim 1]**     An off-axis type hologram lens,

              wherein the hologram lens is divided into a plurality of elemental holograms, and the sizes of the individual elemental holograms are so set that they exhibit the same NA.

**[Claim 2]**     A display apparatus,

25       wherein a light beam emitted from an image display device in accordance with its image information is diffracted into a predetermined direction through an off-axis type hologram lens that is composed of a plurality of elemental holograms having the same N.A., and the image information and image information behind the hologram lens are spatially superimposed on each other and then observed in a same field of view.

30       **[Claim 3]**     A hologram lens as claimed in claim 1,

              wherein the hologram lens is a volume-phase type hologram.

**[Claim 4]**     A display apparatus as claimed in claim 2,

wherein the hologram lens is a volume-phase type hologram.

5 [Claim 5] A display apparatus in which a light beam emitted from an image display device in accordance with its image information is diffracted into a predetermined direction through a hologram lens, and the image information and image information behind the hologram lens are observed in a same field of view while being spatially superimposed on each other,

wherein a prism is provided in an optical path between the image display device and the hologram lens.

10 [Claim 6] A display apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein a relay lens is arranged in an optical path between the image display device and the hologram lens.

[Claim 7] A display apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein a relay lens is arranged in an optical path between the image display device and the prism.

15 [Claim 8] A display apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein an intermediate image plane of the image display device is arranged between the prism and the hologram lens or near the prism.

[Claim 9] A display apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein the prism is arranged in a manner so as to correct astigmatism occurring on 20 the hologram lens.

[Claim 10] A display apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein the hologram lens is manufactured by using a wave surface that corrects coma aberrations.

25 [Claim 11] A display apparatus as claimed in claims 6 or 7, wherein the relay lens corrects coma aberrations occurring on the hologram lens.

[Claim 12] A display apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the relay lens includes a decentered lens.

30 [Claim 13] A hologram lens by which a light beam emitted from an image display device in accordance with its image information is diffracted into a predetermined direction, and the image information and other image information are observed in a same field of view while being spatially superimposed on each other



wherein the hologram lens is off-axis type composed of a plurality of elemental holograms having the same NA.

#### **[Detailed Description of the Invention]**

5 [0001]

#### **[Field of the Invention]**

The present invention relates to a hologram lens and a display apparatus employing the hologram lens, and particularly to a display apparatus in which, for example, by using a hologram lens as an element for binding light beams (hereinafter, it is referred to as a light-  
10 beams-binding element), image information from an image display device and other image information including a natural view in the front field (behind the hologram lens) are observed in the same field of view while being superimposed on each other.

[0002]

#### **[Prior Art]**

15 A display apparatus in which, by using a transparent light-beams-binding element made of a multilayer reflecting surface, a hologram optical element, or the like, display information (image information) from an image display device and image information of an outside view or the like are observed in the same field of view while being spatially superimposed on each other is generally called as a head-up display and widely used in many  
20 fields.

[0003]

And a display apparatus in which the light-beams-binding element is disposed near an observer's eye for miniaturizing components of an optical device in order to mount it on a helmet is called as a helmet-mounted display (HMD). And several applications thereof have  
25 been proposed including a display used by a pilot, a display for use in a leisure purpose such as games, and a display for use in the artificial reality field.

[0004]

Fig. 10 shows an optical path of an HMD functioning as a display apparatus disclosed in USP 3,940,204.

30 [0005]

In this apparatus, display light exited from an image display surface 101 of a CRT (not

shown) passes through a prism system 102, and enters a relay lens 103. The relay lens 103 focuses the display light on an intermediate image plane 104 near a hologram combiner 105 that is formed on a visor (not shown) having an appropriate curvature. The display light is emitted from the intermediate image plane as divergent light, and enters an observer's pupil  
5 106 after being formed into a substantially parallel beam by the hologram combiner 105 functioning as a lens element. Therefore, the observer can observe an image of the CRT (virtual image) formed on an infinite-point while superimposing it on a front view 107.

[0006]

In this display apparatus, because the hologram combiner is widely off-axially  
10 arranged, the hologram combiner 105 causes complicated aberrations. Therefore, in this conventional example, the prism system 102 and the image display surface 101 of the CRT are obliquely arranged so as to correct the aberrations occurring on the hologram combiner 105.

[0007]

#### 15 **[Problems to be Solved by the Invention]**

In a conventional display apparatus, aberrations occurring on a hologram combiner are corrected by inclining a prism system or by decentering a part of a relay lens. Therefore, the display apparatus as a whole becomes complicated and high accuracy is required to assemble such a display apparatus.

20 [0008]

In addition, in the conventional display apparatus, in order to secure a wider observation field of view, it is necessary to make the hologram combiner larger, and this causes larger amount of aberrations occur on the hologram combiner.

[0009]

25 To cope with this problem, for example, USP Nos. 3807829 and 3915548 disclose a head-up display (display apparatus) which prevents the hologram combiner from becoming larger while securing a wider observation field of view.

[0010]

Here, as a combiner, a hologram lens array composed of the same size of a plurality of  
30 elemental holograms is off-axially arranged.

[0011]

However, in this display apparatus, the NA (numerical apertures) are different in the individual light beams entering the observer's eye, and this makes a brightness distribution thereof uneven.

[0012]

5 In other words, if an incident angle of an axial light beam incident on the hologram is expressed as  $\theta_{in}$ , a field of view of an off-axial light beam is expressed as  $w$ , and a pupil diameter of an observer is expressed as  $a$ , the size  $H$  of the incident light beam on the hologram surface is defined by

10 
$$H = a / \cos (\theta_{in} + w)$$

[0013]

Here, the size of the hologram on which an off-axial light beam in the positive (+) direction is incident becomes larger as the angle of view becomes wider. As a result, if such  
15 a divided hologram lens array (combiner) is used in a general head-up display or a helmet mounted display (HMD), the individual light beams emitted from the individual points on the image display device such as a CRT have different solid angles from each other, and therefore the image superimposed through the combiner (another function of the hologram lens array) exhibits an uneven brightness distribution in accordance with the sizes of the individual  
20 elemental holograms.

[0014]

In addition, in the conventional HMD, the prism system is obliquely arranged for correcting coma aberrations on the hologram combiner. However, not only coma aberrations but also many other types of aberrations occur on the hologram combiner.

25 [0015]

For example, in a hologram combiner in which a divergent-light-source-point emitting a light beam for recording hologram is disposed near the observer's pupil position (entrance pupil), and the recording light beam is made to interfere with another recording light beam that is focused near an exit pupil, astigmatic difference observed on the axis of the image-  
30 formation plane is around 13 mm and that observed at the angle of view  $\pm 20^\circ$  is around 5 to 15 mm. As a result, it is very difficult to satisfactorily observe the image information

thereof.

[0016]

An object of the present invention is to provide an off-axis type hologram lens which enables an observer to observe an image having a wide field of view and an even brightness distribution while spatially superimposing image information emitted from the image display  
5 device on other image information, and to provide an display apparatus employing the hologram lens.

[0017]

Another object of the present invention is, when image information from the image  
10 display device and other image information are observed in a same field of view through a hologram combiner while being spatially superimposed on each other, to provide a hologram lens that enables an observer to observe a favorable image by providing a prism in an optical path between an image display device and a hologram combiner for sufficiently correct coma aberrations and astigmatism.

15 [0018]

**[Means for Solving the Problem]**

To achieve the above object, according to the present invention, an off-axis type hologram lens, wherein the hologram lens is divided into a plurality of elemental holograms in a manner that the individual elemental holograms have the same NA.

20 [0019]

According to another aspect of the present invention, the hologram lens is a volume-phase type hologram.

[0020]

According to another aspect of the present invention, a display apparatus,  
25 wherein a light beam emitted from an image display device in accordance with its image information is diffracted in a predetermined direction through an off-axis type hologram lens composed of a plurality of elemental holograms having the same N.A, and the image information and image information behind the hologram lens are spatially superimposed on each other for being observed in a same field of view.

30 [0021]

According to another aspect of the present invention, a display apparatus in

which a light beam emitted from an image display device in accordance with its image information is diffracted into a predetermined direction through a hologram lens, and the image information and image information behind the hologram lens are observed in a same field of view while being spatially superimposed on each other, wherein a prism is provided  
5 in an optical path between the image display device and the hologram lens.

[0022]

According to another aspect of the present invention, a relay lens is arranged in an optical path between the image display device and the prism, the prism is so arranged as to correct astigmatism occurring on the hologram, the hologram lens is  
10 manufactured by using a wave surface for correcting coma aberrations, the relay lens corrects coma aberrations occurring on the hologram lens, and the relay lens includes a decentered lens.

[0023]

According to another aspect of the present invention, a hologram lens in which  
15 a light beam emitted from an image display device in accordance with its image information is diffracted into a predetermined direction, and the image information and other image information are observed in a same field of view while being spatially superimposed on each other. The hologram lens is off-axis type and composed of a plurality of elemental holograms having the same NA.

20 [0024]

**[Example]**

Fig. 1 is a schematic diagram illustrating the principal part of the hologram lens array used in Example 1 of the present invention.

[0025]

25 In this figure, reference numeral 3 represents an off-axis type hologram lens. In this example, the hologram lens 3 is formed of a hologram lens array comprising three elemental holograms 31, 32, and 33. Reference numeral 2 represents a substrate on which the hologram lens 3 is formed. Reference numeral 1 represents an aperture surface which corresponds to an observer's pupil when the hologram lens is applied to a display apparatus.  
30 Reference numeral 5 represents an image plane which corresponds to a position of image information of an image display device when the hologram lens is applied to a display

apparatus. Reference numeral 107 represents other image information such as a natural view and when image information is delivered to the image plane 5 through the hologram lens 3, the observer observes both image information in a same field of view while spatially superimposing on each other.

5 [0026]

Then, the optical character of the hologram lens array 3 composed of three elemental holograms perpendicularly arranged will be explained.

[0027]

First, an axial light beam thereof will be explained. In this figure, the light beam  
10 exited from the aperture surface 1 enters the hologram lens array 3 formed on the substrate 2 at an incident angle of  $\theta_1$ . Among the three elemental holograms, the elemental hologram 31 reflectively diffracts the axial light beam as a light beam 4 at an angel  $\theta_2$ . Here, the elemental hologram 31 is so structured as to fulfill the Bragg condition only to a light beam having the incident angle of  $\theta_1$ , and to achieve wave surface conversion to convert the light  
15 beam into a convergent light beam 4 which is condensed on the focal point F1 on the image plane 5.

[0028]

The light beam exited from the aperture surface 1 enters also the other elemental holograms 32 and 33 at the same incident angle  $\theta_1$ ; however, these elemental holograms 32  
20 and 33 do not fulfill the Bragg condition to a light beam having the incident angle of  $\theta_1$ , and they do not exhibit predetermined diffraction efficiency. Therefore, in this example, only the axial light beam is diffracted on the elemental hologram 31 and condensed on the focal point F1.

[0029]

25 On the other hand, to the light beam entering the hologram lens array 3 at an angle of view  $+w$ , it is so structured that only the elemental hologram 32 fulfills the Bragg condition, and that the light beam is condensed on the focal point F2. In the same manner, it is so structured that the light beam entering the hologram lens array 3 at an angle of view  $-w$  is condensed on the focal point F3.

30 [0030]

In this example, it is determined that the central wavelength of the light beam focused

by the hologram lens array 3 as 530 mm, the incident angle  $\theta_1$  incident on the center C1 of the hologram lens array 3 as  $60^\circ$ , the diffractive angel  $\theta_2$  as  $20^\circ$ , and the focal length  $f_{31}$  of the elemental hologram 31 as 50 mm. The grating constant at the center C1 of the elemental hologram 31 is so determined as to have in-plane grating pitch  $P_{c1}$  of  $1.011 \mu\text{m}$ .

5 [0031]

Furthermore, the diameter of the axial light beam to which the elemental hologram 31 fulfills the Bragg condition is determined as  $\phi$  10 mm. The lowest edge point C2 of the elemental hologram 31 has in-plane grating pitch  $P_{c2}$  of  $1.4466 \mu\text{m}$  and the diffraction angle of  $29.98^\circ$ . And the highest edge point C3 thereof has in-plane grating pitch  $P_{c3}$  of  $0.7396 \mu\text{m}$ ,  
10 and the diffraction angle of  $8.59^\circ$ . The elemental hologram 31 is so divided that the numerical apertures (NA) thereof becomes 0.36 and that the size thereof is 20 mm.

[0032]

Then, the elemental hologram 32 that condenses a light beam on the focal point F3 on the image plane 5 will be explained. To make the explanation simple, the elemental  
15 hologram 32 is so determined as to affect a light beam having the angle of view  $+w$  of  $10^\circ$ . Note that, the angle of view  $w$  is properly adjusted in accordance with the specification of the off-axis type hologram lens array 3.

[0033]

In this example, it is determined that the foal length  $f_{32}$  of the elemental hologram 32  
20 as 45 mm, and the NA thereof as 0.36. Here, the highest edge point C3 of the elemental hologram 31 corresponds to the lowest edge point of the elemental hologram 32. Because the in-plane grating pitch  $P_{c3}$  on the point C3 is  $0.7396 \mu\text{m}$ , the light beam entering the point C3 at an angle of view  $+w$  of  $10^\circ$ , i.e. the incident angle of  $70^\circ$ , is diffracted at the diffraction angle of  $12.89^\circ$ .

25 [0034]

Because the N. A. of the elemental hologram 32 is determined as to be 0.36, on the highest edge point C4 of the elemental hologram 32, in-plane grating pitch  $P_{c4}$  becomes  $0.4874 \mu\text{m}$  and the diffraction angle becomes  $-8.49^\circ$  (here,  $-$  means that a diffracted light beam is included in an incident light beam travels from the surface radiation)

30 [0035]

Therefore, in this example, the hologram lens array is so divided that the elemental hologram 32 has the size around 17 mm. In the same manner, the elemental hologram 33 used for the light beam having the angle of view –  $w$  of  $10^\circ$  is so determined as to have the focal length  $f_{33}$  of 60 mm and the N. A. of 6, and therefore the hologram lens array is so  
5 divided that the elemental hologram 33 has the size around 30 mm.

[0036]

How the hologram lens array embodying the present invention is divided in perpendicular direction is explained so far. However, in this example, the hologram lens array is also horizontally divided in a manner such that the each elemental holograms has the  
10 identical N. A.

[0037]

Fig. 2 is a schematic diagram illustrating the principal parts of Example 1 which applies the hologram lens array 3 shown in Fig. 1 to a helmet-mounted display (HMD) as a light-beams-binding element. In Fig. 2, such elements as are found also in Fig. 1 are  
15 identified with the same reference numerals.

[0038]

In this example, the light beam that is emitted from a light source 8 such as a halogen lamp is formed into a substantially parallel beam by a lamp house having an appropriate shape, and that illuminates a display surface 6 of a liquid crystal display conveying an image  
20 information of the image display device. The light beam 4 emitted from a point F1 on a display surface 5 of the liquid crystal display 6 enters a hologram lens array 3 formed on a transparent substrate 2 made of glass, plastics, or the like.

[0039]

The hologram lens array 3 has an elemental hologram 31 that fulfills the Bragg  
25 condition only to the light beam 4, and therefore the light beam 4 is reflectively diffracted only on the elemental hologram 31 and then enters an observer's pupil 1. Here, the elemental hologram 31 functions as a lens element that converts the light beam 4 into a slight divergent light beam. The observer observes the image information of the point F1 on the display surface 5 as a virtual image formed in accordance with a light beam 4a diverging from  
30 a point F1a in front of the hologram lens array 3.

[0040]



In the same manner, the light beams emitted from points F2 and F3 on the display surface 5 of the image display device 6 are reflectively diffracted into the observer's pupil 1 only by elemental holograms 32 and 33, respectively. Thereby, the observer observes the image information of the points F2 and F3 as a virtual image formed in accordance with the light beams diverging from points F2a and F3a in front of the hologram lens array 3.

[0041]

As described above, each point on the display surface 5 of the liquid crystal display 6 is reflectively diffracted by the individual elemental holograms 31, 32, or 33 so as to form a virtual image.

10 [0042]

Note that, although a white light source is used in the present invention, because the elemental holograms have wavelength selectivity (dependency of diffraction efficiency on wavelength), they exhibit the highest diffraction efficiency to the light beam having the central wavelength  $\lambda_0$  that fulfills the Bragg condition. If the full width at half maximum thereof is expressed as  $2\Delta\lambda$ , among the white light beams incident on, the elemental holograms reflectively diffract only the light beams having the central wavelength from  $\lambda_0 - \Delta\lambda$  to  $\lambda_0 + \Delta\lambda$ . Therefore, in this example, a halogen lamp is used as a light source.

[0043]

It is of course possible to use an interference filter that transmits only the light beams emitted from the halogen lamp and the light beams having the necessary wavelengths. In addition, in this example, the individual elemental holograms 31, 32, and 33 have regions 61, 62, and 63, respectively, in which aberrations are sufficiently corrected, and therefore all the points on the virtual image 9 that is composed of the individual regions 61a, 62a, and 63a can be observed as image points almost free from aberrations.

25 [0044]

As described above, in this example, a helmet-mounted display is constructed by using a reflection-off-axis type hologram lens array; however, it can be also constructed by using a transmission-off-axis type hologram lens array in the same manner.

[0045]

30 Furthermore, in this example, the case in which the display apparatus is structured by making the display surface 5 of the liquid crystal display 6 correspond to the image plane 5 of

the hologram lens array 3 is explained; however, by use of a relay lens, it is of course possible to structure the display apparatus by converting a display surface of a CRT or a liquid crystal display into an intermediate image plane of the relay lens in order to make the intermediate image plan correspond to the display surface 5 (object surface of the hologram lens array) of this example.

[0046]

Moreover, it is possible to construct the display apparatus by using a cold mirror or an infrared ray cut-off filter for preventing the light source from emitting a light beam having unnecessary wavelengths, if appropriate.

[0047]

In this example, the display apparatus is constructed by using the hologram lens array that exhibits diffraction efficiency only to a single wavelength; however, it is possible to construct a similar display apparatus by combining hologram lens arrays having central wavelengths of red, blue, or green, and this makes it possible to display a multicolor image or a fully colored image.

[0048]

Fig. 3 is a schematic diagram illustrating a hologram lens employed in Example 2 of the present invention.

[0049]

In this example, a hologram lens array is composed of  $5 \times 5$  of elemental holograms.

[0050]

In this figure, the coordinates (i, j) (i, j = -2 to 2) indicate angles of view of light beams in the perpendicular and horizontal directions relative to an axial light beam including the point C1 that forms an optical axis which is affected by the elemental hologram (0, 0). For example, the elemental hologram (i, J) = (2, 2) indicates the elemental hologram that affects to a light beam having the angles of view +w of + 20° in perpendicular direction and of +20° in the horizontal direction. And the elemental hologram (i, j) = (-1, +1) indicates the elemental hologram that affects to an incident light beam having the angles of view of - 10° in the perpendicular direction and of +10° in the horizontal direction.

[0051]

As described above, in the perpendicular direction, if the angle of view w having +

mark becomes larger, the elemental hologram is divided into a smaller size.

[0052]

However, in the horizontal direction, since the coordinate is symmetric with respect to the line AA' passing through the point C1 on the elemental hologram (0, 0), the elemental  
5 hologram is divided into the same size at the angle of view of +w and -w. Therefore, when  $i = 0$ , the elemental holograms are divided into a smallest size.

[0053]

In this example, by controlling the size of each elemental hologram and its optical function, the N. A. of each elemental hologram is fixed so that the image information having  
10 an even brightness distribution can be observed.

[0054]

Note that, according to the present invention, there is no restriction on the number of elemental holograms composing the hologram lens array, at least if boundaries of each elemental hologram have the same in-plane grating pitch, the individual elemental holograms  
15 connect to each other in a manner such that the incident angle and the angle of diffraction of them fulfill the grating equation, and each elemental hologram fulfills the Bragg condition only to the light beam having the angle of view affected by the elemental hologram.

[0055]

Note that, in the above example, a reflection-off-axis type hologram lens array is  
20 explained; however, a transmission-off-axis type hologram lens array can be used in the same manner.

[0056]

Then, the manufacturing process of the off-axis type hologram lens array embodying the present invention will be explained with reference to the elemental hologram 31 shown in  
25 Fig. 1. Note that, the manufacturing process of the other elemental hologram is basically the same.

[0057]

As shown in Fig. 1, the elemental hologram 31 has the grating constant such that, on the point C1 on the surface of the hologram, the in-plane grating pitch  $P_{e1}$  is  $1.011 \mu\text{m}$ , the  
30 inclination angle of grating  $\phi_{e1}$  is  $11.04^\circ$ , and the grating interval  $d_{e1}$  is  $0.1937 \mu\text{m}$ .

[0058]

On the point C2, the grating constant fulfills the following equations:  $P_{c2} = 1.2375 \mu\text{m}$ ,  $\phi_{c2} = 9.15^\circ$ , and  $d_{c2} = 0.1968 \mu\text{m}$ . On the point C3, the grating constant fulfills the following equations:  $P_{c3} = 0.8390 \mu\text{m}$ ,  $\phi_{c3} = 13.14^\circ$ , and  $d_{c3} = 0.1907 \mu\text{m}$ .

[0059]

5 Then, with reference to Fig. 4, the process how the elemental holograms having the above-mentioned grating constants are recorded by using an argon ion laser having a wavelength of 514.5 nm on a photosensitive material having a refractive index of 1.5 will be explained.

[0060]

10 In Fig. 4, the laser light having the wavelength of 514.5 nm emitted from the argon ion laser 11 is split into two light beams by a half mirror 12, and then the beams are collimated by collimeter systems 13a and 13b.

[0061]

One of the two collimated light beams La enters a lens system 15 that is arranged with  
15 its angle of view  $\beta_1$  inclined relative to the optical axis, and then is reflected on a mirror 16. The reflected light beam 19 reflected on the mirror 16 enters a photosensitive material 18 applied or attached to a transparent substrate 17. The incident light beam 19 is an off-axial light beam of the lens system 15 at the angle of view  $\beta_1$ , and, on the incident light beam 19, aberrations opposite to those of the off-axial lens system of the present invention occur in  
20 order to correct those aberrations caused by the off-axial arrangement, and the difference in wavelength between the operating (or reproducing) wavelength (530 nm in this example) and the recording wavelength (514.5 nm).

[0062]

The other collimated light beam Lb is reflected from a mirror 20, and, by a lens  
25 system 21 obliquely arranged at  $\beta_2$  relative to the optical axis, made to enter the photosensitive material 18 as a convergent light beam having aberrations.

[0063]

The individual light beams 19 and 22, respectively, enter the photosensitive material  
18 from the sides facing each other with the incident angles  $\theta_{r1}$  and  $\theta_{r2}$ , and interferes to each  
30 other. In this way, a reflection-type hologram is recorded.

[0064]

Note that, as the recording material 18 used in this example, dichromate gelatin, photopolymer, a silver-salt photosensitive material, or the like can be used. Among them, in Fig. 4, photopolymer is used.

[0065]

5 Fig. 5 is a diagram showing light beams with exaggeratedly illustrating the two light beams 19 and 22 entering the photosensitive material 18 disposed in a recording optical system.

[0066]

10 Fig. 6 is a diagram illustrating incident angles of recording laser beams on the points C1, C2, and C3 on the surface of the elemental hologram 31.

[0067]

In this figure, it is defined that on the point C1,  $\theta_{ri}(C1) = 69.88^\circ$ ,  $\theta_{rz}(C1) = 25.49^\circ$ ; on the point C2,  $\theta_{ri}(C2) = 70.95^\circ$ ,  $\theta_{rz}(C2) = 19.39^\circ$ ; and on the point C3,  $\theta_{ri}(C3) = 69.02^\circ$ ,  $\theta_{rz}(C3) = 31.20^\circ$ . And the distance between the point C1 and a primary imaging point P1 of the light beam 19 is 600 mm, and the distance between the point C1 and an imaging point P2 of the light beam 19 is 88 mm.

[0068]

20 As mentioned above, the size of the elemental hologram 31 (length between the point C2 and the point C3) is 20 mm. Because the distance between the lens system 21 and the photosensitive material 18 is set to 50 mm, the diameter of the lens system 21 becomes around 30 mm.

[0069]

25 In the present invention, while following the process mentioned above, a hologram lens array is manufactured by recording the individual elemental holograms by means of such as a step and repeat method. When the other elemental holograms are recorded, the incident angles of the light beams incident on the centers of the elemental holograms are controlled by rotating the mirrors 16 and 20. Furthermore, in accordance with the size of the elemental hologram, the individual light beams 19 and 22 are controlled by using a mask (not shown) or a spatial light modulator (not shown) such as a liquid crystal.

30 [0070]

In this example, a method to record the elemental hologram by using an aberration-

light-beam composed of an off-axial light beam of a rotationally symmetric lens system is explained; however, it is possible to use a recording optical system such as a lens system including a cylindrical lens or a decentered lens.

[0071]

5 In addition, in this example, collimated beams are made to enter the lens systems 15 and 21 which function as aberrations generators; however, it is possible to convert the light beams into divergent light beams by using a concave lens, a convex lens, a microscope objective lens, or the like, instead of using the collimation system 13 as in this example, and to use the lens systems 15 and 21 as finite imaging systems.

10 [0072]

As described above, in Example 1, the off-axis type hologram lens array is divided in such a manner that the elemental holograms have the sizes to exhibit the same NA. Thereby, the off-axis type hologram lens array is obtained that secures a wide angle of view and that exhibits an even brightness distribution all over the hologram surface.

15 [0073]

In addition, a display apparatus having a wide image plane is obtained in which image information light emitted from a CRT or a liquid crystal display is reflectively diffracted into the observer's pupil by an off-axis type hologram lens array for enabling the observer to observe the image information without suffering from an uneven brightness distribution.

20 [0074]

Fig. 7 is a schematic diagram illustrating the display of Example 2 employing the hologram lens array embodying the present invention.

[0075]

25 In this example, a light beam emitted from a light source 71 such as a halogen lamp is collimated by a lamp house 72 having an appropriate shape, and illuminates a liquid crystal display 73 displaying image information. By a prism 74, the light beams emitted from each point of the liquid crystal display 73 are given astigmatism having sign (+ or -) opposite to that of a hologram lens 76 described latter, and then enters the hologram lens 76 formed on a transparent substrate made of glass, plastics, or the like.

30 [0076]

The hologram lens 76 suffers from astigmatism having a sign (+ or -) opposite to that

of the light beams given by the prism 74. Therefore, the light beam entered the hologram lens 76 becomes a collimated beam with its aberrations well corrected, and then enters the observer's pupil.

[0077]

5 This enables the observer to observe the image information of the liquid crystal display 3 formed as a virtual image in front of the hologram lens 76 and the other image information 80 in the same field of view, while spatially superimposing on each other.

[0078]

10 The hologram lens 76 exhibits reflective diffraction efficiency only to an incident light beam having a wavelength in a specific range (Bragg diffraction). Therefore, even the incident light beam is white light, it is possible to observe its image information by use of the color light having the wavelength in the specific range.

[0079]

15 In this example, a filter that transmits only a light beam having a wavelength in the specific range is not employed; however, an interference filter or the like may be used for eliminating a light beam having an unnecessary wavelength, and to prevent chromatic aberrations caused by the hologram lens.

[0080]

20 It is also possible to use a cold mirror or an infrared ray cut-off filter in order to cope with the heat or an infrared ray generated in the light source 71.

[0081]

Hereinafter, the values of each constituent component of this example will be explained in detail.

[0082]

25 The manufacturing process of the hologram lens 76 used in this example is as follows: For example, a coherent light beam emitted from an argon laser having the wavelength of 514.5 nm is split into two light beams by a half mirror or the like, and one of the light beams is made to enter a dry plate with the incident angle at 0° (vertical incidence) from a point 50 mm away from the dry plate as a divergent light beam (recording light beam).

30 [0083]

And, as a convergent light beam focused on a point 100 mm away from the dry plate,

the other light beam is made to enter the dry plate with the incident angle at  $34^\circ$  from the direction opposite to that the recording light beam enters from. Then, an interference fringe made by the two light beams is recorded and developed.

[0084]

5 As a photosensitive material, dichromate gelatin, photopolymer, a silver-salt photosensitive material, or the like can be used. Among them, in this example, photopolymer is used.

[0085]

10 The prism 74 that is used in this example is made of optical glass having a refractive index of 1.91, that has the apex angle of  $16^\circ$  and the central thickness of 5 mm, and that is disposed around 21 mm away from the hologram lens 76 in an inclined state at  $5^\circ$  relative to the optical axis. In addition, the distance between the prism 74 and the liquid crystal display 73 is around 8 mm. Furthermore, the liquid crystal display 73 is obliquely arranged at  $4^\circ$  relative to the optical axis.

15 [0086]

Fig. 8 is a schematic diagram illustrating the display of Example 3 employing the hologram lens array embodying the present invention.

[0087]

20 The distinct feature of this example is that a relay lens 78 is arranged between a liquid crystal display 73 and a prism 74, and the prism 74 is arranged near an intermediate image plane 79 of the relay lens 78. In other respects, the construction here is the same as in Example 2 shown in Fig. 7.

[0088]

25 This example will be explained below with emphasizing the difference from Example 2.

[0089]

30 The relay lens 78 is composed of a biconvex lens that is made of a material having a refractive index of 1.755 and that has the focal length of around 14 mm. In order to correct aberrations occurring on the hologram lens 76 and the prism 74, off-axial aberrations of the relay lens 78 are used. Therefore, at least some portion of the relay lens 78 is adequately decentered or inclined relative to the optical axis.



[0090]

The distance between the liquid crystal display 73 and the relay lens 78 is around 26 mm, between the relay lens 78 and the prism 74 is around 23 mm, and between the prism 74 and the hologram lens 76 is around 37 mm. The prism 74 made of a material having a refractive index of 1.487 has the apex angle of  $10^\circ$  and the central thickness of 4 mm, and is arranged with its first surface (the relay lens side surface) is substantially perpendicular to the optical axis.

[0091]

In this example, the relay lens 78 also corrects the aberrations occurring on the hologram lens 76, and therefore the aberrations are corrected further favorably.

[0092]

Fig. 9 is a schematic diagram illustrating a display apparatus of Example 4 employing the hologram lens array embodying the present invention.

[0093]

The distinct feature of this example is that a relay lens 78 is arranged between a liquid crystal display 73 and a prism 74, and the prism 74 is arranged in a position nearer to the relay lens 78 than an intermediate image plane 79. In other respects, the construction here is the same as in Example 2 shown in Fig. 7.

[0094]

This example will be explained below with emphasizing the difference from Example 2.

[0095]

The relay lens 78 is composed of a biconvex lens that is made of a material having a refractive index of 1.755 and that has the focal length of around 15 mm. In order to correct aberrations occurring on the hologram lens 76 and the prism 74, off-axial aberrations of the relay lens 78 are used. Therefore, the relay lens 78 is adequately decentered or inclined relative to the optical axis.

[0096]

The distance between the liquid crystal display 73 and the relay lens 78 is around 27 mm, between the relay lens 78 and the prism 74 is around 16 mm, and between the prism 74 and the hologram lens 76 is around 50 mm. The prism 74 made of a material having a

refractive index of 1.487 has the apex angle of  $5^\circ$  and the central thickness of 1.5 mm, and is arranged with its first surface (the relay lens side surface) is inclined at  $30^\circ$  relative to the optical axis.

[0097]

5 In this example, the relay lens 78 also corrects the aberrations occurring on the hologram lens 76, and therefore the aberrations are corrected further favorably.

[0098]

The distinctive character of this example is that the prism 74 can become more compact than that of Example 3.

10 [0099]

The hologram lens 76 used in Examples 2, 3, and 4 is manufactured, as described before, by using interference between a divergent light beam and a convergent light beam; however, it is also possible to record the hologram while giving aberrations to these recording light beams in such a manner that aberrations observed when the hologram is reproduced  
15 (while in a use) will be corrected.

[0100]

Furthermore, in Examples 2, 3, and 4, astigmatism is made to occur on the prism 76; however, coma aberrations occurring in the display apparatus embodying the present invention can be corrected by using the hologram lens manufactured with coma aberrations  
20 given to the recording light beams.

[0101]

As described above, according to Examples 2, 3, and 4, when an observer observes image information emitted from an image display device as a virtual image by diffracting it in the direction to the observer's pupil by means of a hologram lens, by providing a prism  
25 between the image display device and the hologram lens, astigmatism occurring on the hologram lens is satisfactorily corrected, and thereby a display apparatus that offers a high-resolution and a clear image can be obtained.

[0102]

#### **[Advantages of the Present Invention]**

30 According to the present invention, by appropriately setting the sizes of the individual elemental holograms of a hologram lens array, it is possible to realize an off-axis type

hologram lens that permits observation of an image having a wide observation field of view and an even brightness distribution while spatially superimposing the image information emitted from an image display device and other image information, and to realize a display apparatus employing the hologram lens.

5 [0103]

In addition, according to the present invention, when the image information emitted from an image display device and other image information are observed in the same field of view through a hologram combiner while being spatially superimposed on each other, by providing a prism in an optical path between the image display device and the hologram  
10 combiner, it is possible to correct coma aberrations and astigmatism sufficiently, and therefore a display apparatus that permits a favorable observation of image information can be realized.

**[Brief Description of the Drawings]**

15 **[Fig. 1]** A schematic diagram illustrating the principal part of a hologram lens array of Example 1 of the present invention.

**[Fig. 2]** A schematic diagram illustrating a display apparatus of Example 1 employing a hologram lens array embodying the present invention.

**[Fig. 3]** A diagram illustrating a hologram lens of Example 2 of the present invention.

20 **[Fig. 4]** A schematic diagram illustrating the principal part of a process for manufacturing a hologram lens embodying the present invention.

**[Fig. 5]** A diagram illustrating a recording beam of a hologram lens embodying the present invention.

25 **[Fig. 6]** A diagram illustrating a recording beam of a hologram lens embodying the present invention.

**[Fig. 7]** A schematic diagram illustrating a display apparatus of Example 2 employing a hologram lens array embodying the present invention.

**[Fig. 8]** A schematic diagram illustrating a display apparatus of Example 3 employing a hologram lens array embodying the present invention.

30 **[Fig. 9]** A schematic diagram illustrating a display apparatus of Example 4 employing a hologram lens array embodying the present invention.

**[Fig. 10]** A schematic diagram illustrating the principal part of a display apparatus employing a conventional hologram lens.

**[Reference Symbols]**

- |    |       |                                 |
|----|-------|---------------------------------|
| 5  | 1, 77 | Aperture Surfaces (Pupil)       |
|    | 2, 75 | Substrates                      |
|    | 3, 76 | Hologram Lenses                 |
|    | 4     | Light Beam                      |
|    | 5     | Image Plane (Image Information) |
| 10 | 6, 73 | Image Display Devices           |
|    | 7, 72 | Lamp House                      |
|    | 8, 71 | Light Source                    |
|    | 74    | Prism                           |
|    | 78    | Relay Lens                      |
| 15 | 80    | Image information               |